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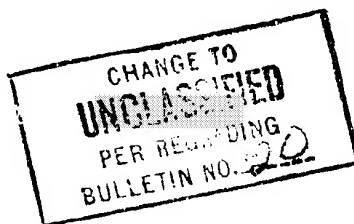
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SUMMARY

The Kremlin's awareness that the post-Stalin reorganization of the Party and Government must be "sold" to the people may be inferred from the intensive propaganda follow-up of the changes. The point that rigid centralization of authority is what the country needs is driven home, without any reference to Stalin's death, in the context of every discussion from coal mining to the publishing industry. The official efforts to secure something like a popular acceptance of this fait accompli are understandable in view of the fact that the recent revamping of the State apparatus actually meant a reversal of the trend toward more "delegation of power" initiated some time between the last two Party Congresses and steadily pursued in the postwar period. (It may be recalled here that the membership of the Party's Central Committee had been increased from 71 in 1936 to 125 in 1952 (19th Congress), the 10-man Politburo had grown into a 25-member Presidium while the number of ministries jumped from about 15 to 51 during the same period.)

Discussion of industrial weaknesses follows the familiar propaganda pattern of highlighting such chronic shortcomings as inept utilization of technical facilities, inordinate overhead expenditures, the production of substandard goods, etc. Conspicuously absent from such discussions is any reference to the need for political vigilance in industry against existing and potential, domestic and foreign enemies bent on undermining the country's economic might.

It is not clear whether or not the increased attention to the average consumer followed by the widely disseminated announcement of new price reductions on food-stuffs and other mass consumption goods has been timed to coincide with the current "liberalization policy." It does appear, however, that this theme is given somewhat more prominence than the professions of "solicitude" for the people's welfare that have appeared at rare intervals in the past.

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